

Delegation Briefing Summary

Colbert Landfill, Washington

June 1987

I. Delegation Criteria

Exposure ^{to the contamination} is limited ~~by~~ the site because an alternative water supply system was constructed as an initial remedial measure.

II. Site DescriptionA. Background

The Colbert Landfill is a 40 acre Spokane County sanitary landfill located in northeastern Washington, approximately 15 miles north of the city of Spokane. The landfill was opened in 1968 and has been owned and continuously operated by Spokane County. During the five years from 1975 to 1980, a local electronics firm, Key Tronic Corporation, used the Colbert landfill to dispose of spent organic solvents, mainly methylene chloride and 1,1,1-trichlorethane (TCA), at a rate of several hundred gallons per month. The spent solvents were poured into the open trenches and mixed with the soils and refuse already in the trench. Other contributors may also be identified.

b. Response Activities

In October 1980, the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) followed up on a dumping complaint and discovered the flow of spent solvents entering the landfill. Samples of nearby private wells identified contamination by TCA as high as 5,600 ug/l or parts per billion (ppb). Because of the high levels of TCA found in several wells, the county health department suggested that the residences not use the contaminated well water for consumptive purposes.

In 1981 and 1982, Spokane County undertook a study to define the problem. Thirteen monitoring wells were installed and monitored. The landfill was clearly identified as the source of groundwater contamination but the geology and groundwater movement proved to be confusing.

In September 1983, Colbert Landfill was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) by EPA. In early 1984, bottled water was provided to several residences that continued to have contaminated wells. In March 1984, EPA and Ecology entered into a Cooperative Agreement for conducting an RI/FS at the site. Later, in July, a Focused Feasibility Study was completed for implementation of an alternative water supply system to serve the area with contaminated wells. The IRM was completed in January 1985.

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The RI draft report was completed in July 1986 and the draft FS was released in May 1987. Data supports the theory that the contamination plume is still expanding in two directions and more private domestic wells could become contaminated.

c. Current Site Conditions--Status

Contamination is currently affecting groundwater in two interconnected aquifers from about one mile north and east of the landfill to about 2 miles south and 1/2 mile west. The plume is moving south at an estimated rate of several feet per day. Several housing subdivisions have wells located just outside of the contaminated plume.

Spokane County is using the Maximum Concentration Limit (MCL) of 200 ug/l (ppb) for TCA as the criteria for connection to the alternative water supply. Therefore, those private wells which become contaminated with TCA greater than 200 ug/l are eligible for connection to the alternative water supply. This MCL is consistent with the risk assessment presented in the draft FS.

d. Status of RI and FS

The final RI and draft FS were available May 15, 1987. The public comment period for the FS closes on June 30, 1987. The decision on the recommended alternative is scheduled for August with the ROD signing in September 1987.

III. Remedial Objectives, Criteria, Alternatives

A. Operable units

The ROD will be the final action, no operable units are planned.

B. Remedial objectives

1. Prevent additional exposure of population to contaminants above 10^{-6} levels.
2. Monitor contaminated groundwater plume to monitor its expansion or its limits.
3. Evaluate active groundwater controls which could limit expansion of the plume.

C. Remedial Alternatives

Table 1 presents the alternatives evaluated for the site and provides a ranking. The preliminary ranking is based on compliance with ARARs, risk assessment, cost, and institutional controls.

IV. Other

A. Enforcement

The PRPs (Spokane County and Key Tronic Corp. currently identified) are interested in doing the design and construction of the remedial action. Negotiations with the PRPs will begin after the ROD. There is a good possibility of recovering much of the Fund money spent on the RI/FS through cost recovery. Both of the identified PRPs have revenue.

B. Public Comments

The six-week public comment period closes on June 30, 1987. A public meeting to present the FS and ask for verbal comments was held on May 28, 1987.

C. Schedule

Rod is scheduled for RA signature in September 1987. *in ~~the~~ October*
Informal negotiations with PRPs will begin ~~October~~ 1987